

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /141 W

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R 130800Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9370

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3595

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: DR. GOH ON CREEPING COMMUNISM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: SINGAPORE DEFENSE AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
DR. GOH KENG SWEE IN SEPT 17 ISSUE OF FAR EAST EDITION
OF NEWSWEEK GAVE HIS VIEWS ON FUTURE OF COMMUNIST
EXPANSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND EFFECTS OF U.S. WITHDRAWAL
FROM INDOCHINA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN BACK-PAGE INTERVIEW GOH EXPRESSES BELIEF THAT
COMMUNISTS "WILL NOT STOP" WITH "TAKE-OVER" OF FORMER
FRENCH TERRITORIES OF INDOCHINA AND THAT PRC, DESPITE
DETENTE, WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE INSURGENTS.
HE STATES THAT SE ASIAN COUNTRIES NEED NOT PANIC AS
FURTHER EXPANSION WILL BE "SLOW PROCESS" AND OPINES
THAT NATIONS NOW "KNOW THAT THEY MUST START PUTTING
THEIR HOUSES IN ORDER IF THEY ARE GOING TO
PREVENT THEIR PRESENT LOW-LEVEL INSURGENCIES FROM
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BLOSSOMING INTO NEW VIETNAMS." TO DO THIS, " THEY

ARE GOING TO NEED ASSISTANCE -- ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL." WHILE U.S. AND WESTERN ASSISTANCE COMES FIRST TO MIND, HE FEELS "THE COUNTRIES OF SE ASIA SHOULD THINK MORE ABOUT HELPING EACH OTHER."

2. ON U.S. ROLE IN INDOCHINA, GOH STATES THAT "ONLY MASSIVE INTERVENTION OF SUPER POWER" COULD AND DID STEM TIDE IN VIETNAM. HOWEVER, HE SAYS RESULT OF BOMBING HALT WAS THAT "THE ONE DETERRENT WRITTEN INTO THE PARIS CEASEFIRE ACCORDS IS NO LONGER CREDIBLE." GOH ENDS INTERVIEW BY TALKING OF PRESENT U.S. TROOP REDUCTIONS IN TAIWAN AND THAILAND. THESE "ADJUSTMENTS ARE BOTH INEVITABLE AND A FAR CRY FROM A TOTAL WITHDRAWAL WHICH WOULD CREATE A DANGEROUS VACUUM THAT NO ONE WANTS. U.S. PRESENCE IS NECESSARY . . . TO PRESERVE A BALANCE. I THINK MOST COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WANT A U.S. PRESENCE EVEN IF THEY DO NOT COME OUT PUBLICLY IN FAVOR OF IT."

3. EMBASSY CABLING DEPT IN CASE INTERVIEW DID NOT APPEAR IN U.S. EDITION NEWSWEEK. POUCHING COMPLETE TEXT.
O'NEILL

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